Increase in prices of edible oils

*56. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of increase in prices of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring down their prices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):(a) There has been no appreciable increase in the prices of mustard, coconut, groundnut and soyabean oils in the last one month.

(b) The steps taken in this regard include:-

(i) Import of edible oils (except coconut) is allowed on OGL;

(ii) the State Governments/UT Administrations have been addressed to maintain constant watch over the availability and prices of edible oils.

Telephone facilities in the villages of Assam

*57. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Assam which have not been provided with telephone facilities as yet;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when this facility is likely to be provided in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE).(a) to (c) 6617 villages in Assam are without Telecom facilities as on 31.10.2003. Earlier permission was not available for commissioning Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system in Assam Circle due to security reasons as most of the VPTs in this circle were planned on WLL system. Permission for commissioning of WLL system was received in last week of August, 2002. Equipment has been ordered now. All the remaining uncovered villages in Assam are expected to be provided progressively with telecom facilities in 2004.